

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

It likely will. Nuances of yet to be created/implemented technology cannot be fully realized until that technology is put into everyday use. I can foresee an individual have multiple units in thier home, and running into conflicts between various brands, types of equipment, etc. This is a challenge that has already been realized with certain digital protection schemes used in the recording industry - it proved to not work as planned and hindered the end use of the product.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, it likely would. Again, in a perfect world the many producers of such equipment would abide by stringent guidelines and requirements. We all know how that works out in the end for the user - limited features, sketchy quality and limited future development.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Most likely. As much as manufacturers suggest that they try to not create obsolete equipment with new equipment, it happens every day. For example, while users will technically be able to use a standard definition, NTSC television set with the new ATSC standard, they will be FORCED to purchase a set top decoder box. While I fully realize this is a separate issue, it is an example of innovation driving consumers to purchase more. This is after all why the producers of said equipment are in business.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

One can only assume that it will have this affect. Not knowing how it is to be implimented and used in daily life, we cannot assume that it will hav no adverse affects. This shift of thinking, of taking the choice away from the end user and putting it in the hands of the creator/manufacture, is dangerous and shameful.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Likely a high cost impact will result. With innnovation, no matter how unnecessary, comes cost. This new requirement will force manufacturers to add time and cost to the developement of new products - that cost will certainly be passed on to the end user/purchaser. This is a shame considering many cannot afford to spend much money on consumer electronics equipment. One may argue that the equipment is not necessary for a good quality of life, but as more and more information - important health, wellness, political and social information is disseminated electronically, it becomes imperative for ALL citizenry to have access to to the equipment so they can be educated. This flag will only help increase the ever growing digital divide.